It is of interest that Tom Carter, in the *Emu*, 3, 1904: 208 reported the following observation in his account of the birds of North-West Cape: "*Sterna frontalis*, White-fronted Tern, seen in the summer about Sandy Point". This was an obvious mis-identification and the bird he sighted may have been a Common Tern.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to extend my thanks to Peter Menkhorst of Melbourne, who kindly made his notes available on the Common Tern, and also to Peter Curry of Kelmscott, who assisted and advised me in the preparation of this paper.

— MAX HOWARD, Roleystone

A record of a centipede killing and feeding on a sawfly larva. — The following observations were made on 30 March 1980, about 20km SW of Pemberton, W.A. (34°33'S, 115°55'E) at approx. 1530 hrs (WST). The vegetation of the area consists of a *Eucalyptus diversicolor* (Karri) and *E. calophylla* (marri) forest (the dominant eucalypts) with some *E. marginata* (jarrah), growing in white sand over laterite, with an understorey of *Xanthorrhoea preissii, Agonis parviceps* and *Pteridium esculentum* with scattered plants of *Banksia grandis, Macrozamia riedlei* and two *Acacia* species. At the time when observations took place, the temperature was 24° C and the weather overcast.

Overturning a marri log in the search for insects, we observed an aggregation of 20 sawfly larvae (probably a *Perga* species; Pergidae: Hymenoptera). They were not very active and were simply lying together partially covered by the white sand. Upon disturbance, some of the larvae exuded a mustard-coloured offensive fluid from the mouth and anus. (Regurgitation of semi-digested eucalypt leaves is a typical defensive mechanism of sawfly larvae, Norris, 1970: In *Insects of Australia*, C.S.I.R.O). The larvae possessed a black head capsule, the general dorsal body surface was grey-pink, the undersurface cream and the body varied from 3.5cm to 5.5cm in length and from 7mm to 9mm in width.

In addition, a centipede was noticed partially covered by sand but retreated under the overturned log after being exposed to light for a few seconds. (This is the typical behaviour pattern displayed by centipedes when disturbed). The centipede (Order Scolopendromorpha) measured 7.5cm in body length (with 1cm long pedipalps), the antennae were blue, the head and carapace red-brown, the body segments blue-black, and the legs and undersurface of the body were dirty yellow.

The larvae were then examined and were photographed as a group. During this time (5 minutes) one larva, which had remained in a crevice in the overturned log, fell to the ground below, near the other larvae. Suddenly, the previously secretive centipede emerged from its retreat, attacking this larva in the middle of its body by inserting its poison claws (Fig. 1). The centipede then began chewing on the cuticle of the still alive larva and was probably injecting venom simultaneously through the inserted poison claws. The sawfly larva emitted only small amounts of defensive secretion upon attack by its predator and made little effort to struggle away. The centipede spent about five minutes feeding on the fluids and tissues of the sawfly larva before it was disturbed by the electronic flash from the camera. During this time, the accompanying photograph was able to be taken (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1.—A centipede feeding on the sawfly larva, south-west of Pemberton, W.A. — Photograph by M. Peterson.

Upon disturbance by the bright light of the flash, the centipede lifted the larva about 5mm off the ground. It then carried it backwards for a distance of about 8cm, before dropping the larva at the onslaught of another flash of light. The centipede then retreated under a log. Examination of the sawfly larva by this time showed that it was dead, either by the action of the venom or by a combination of the envenomation and its fall.

Centipedes are mainly nocturnal arthropods, resting by day in leaf litter, in the soil, under stones, loose bark or logs, and in crevices and emerge at night to roam over the surface of the ground or climb trees and walls in search of their prey. The prey are immobilized by the injection of poison by the poison claws. It is generally known that centipedes prey on small invertebrates, and some giant scolopendrid species from South Africa are known to attack and feed on vertebrates such as lizards and frogs.

In this journal, Shugg (*West. Aust. Nat.*, 8, 1961: 52) records a large, unidentified centipede attacking, killing and feeding on a mouse *(Mus musculus).* However, there appear to be no other Australian papers on the prey of centipedes.

The Australian species are poorly known, both in their general biology and taxonomy. Therefore, we find it of interest to record these observations.

— T.J. HAWKESWOOD and M PETERSON

First record of Golden Bronze Cuckoo in Kimberley. — The Golden Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus plagosus* breeds in south-western Australia and winters in the Lesser Sunda Islands but there are few records of it from areas it traverses enroute. Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 5th edn., 1976) give only five records from the northern part of Western Australia: Landor Station (breeding in April), Mileura Station (calling in June), Carnarvon (single specimens in May and August) and near Roebourne (specimen in July). On 17 April 1977 Johnstone collected an immature being fed by a pair of Mangrove Warblers *Gerygone levigaster* in a